

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Inventors: Mary L. Mandich
William D. Reents
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Title: PROCESS FOR FABRICATING OPTICAL FIBER

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 64, and add new claims 65-76, as follows:

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65. A process for preparing optical fiber, comprising the step of:
drawing fiber from a preform comprising a sol-gel silica tube, the
tube formed by a process including the steps of, prior to sintering the
tube:
providing a silica dispersion,
forming from the dispersion a gelled tube comprising water,
hydroxyl groups, and refractory metal oxide particles,
heating the entire tube to a temperature ranging from 400 to
800°C and,
while the tube is at the temperature, treating the tube with a
gaseous mixture comprising one or more non-oxygenated sulfur halides,
the treatment performed for a time period that provides sufficient

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